THE NEWS BULLETIN

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS OF CANADA

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TORONTO AND CLEVELAND

A CHALLENGE TO THOUGHT AND ACTION

How Can We Translate Their Resolutions into Programme?

1.—The Third World Assembly of Workers with Boys.

2.—The First World Assembly of Young Men.

3.—The Twentieth World Conference of the Young Men's Christian Associations.

4.—The Forty-Third International Convention of the Associations of North America.

The delegates at the World's events represented nearly fifty nations; 1,500 were in attendance at the two Toronto assemblies, and 2,000 at the two Cleveland events; Canada's delegations included 150 at Toronto and 83 official delegates at Cleveland.

What did the recent World Conferences and the International Convention contribute to the Associations? Are our conceptions clearer as to who we are, where we are going and what we should attempt to do? Have we now something which will help carry our Christian Associations forward to meet the many challenging situations of this age of rapid change?

If what others said about the Conferences indicate their value, we should be satisfied that real forward steps were taken. Note some of the headings:—"Vital forces in the Y.M.C.A."; "Youth versus officials"; "Again the brakes were heard, you could almost hear the rubber burning"; "Yet officials were vital"; "Genuine educational procedure"; "Facing fundamental questions".

"The re-birth of the Y.M.C.A.", an article in "The New Outlook" reported the conferences in some very significant terms,—"No words could exaggerate the intensity of the quest for a fellowship bridging seas and oceans, boundaries of race and nationality."

"The Y.M.C.A. now stands committed to a programme of social education and public information such as is gravely needed! But, the decisions were not lightly made . . . The Y.M.C.A. purposes to go far beyond allowing men study . . . Secretaries will have to be trained and officials must adjust the habits of forty years to new situations. But we face in a new direction—we have changed front. Ring the bells!"

We must immediately start a process of studiously evaluating these events realistically with the view to conserving their values; the next step will be the translation of decisions made in the form of resolutions and recommendations into policy and programmes in order to incorporate them into the life of our members and that of their communities. Experience has proven to us that only too often "resolutions, good as they may be, not crystallized into specific lines of action may become stumbling blocks to progress." That is the immediate task facing our whole Movement; the World's Alliance, the National Councils, the local Associations and individual members. There are commissions in these resolutions for all of these. Some specific suggestions of procedure in doing this are given in another place in this Bulletin.

The following digest of the more significant affirmations, expressions of attitude, statements of principle, resolutions and recommendations, is divided into two sections in order to clearly differentiate between the results of the World Conferences and the North American Convention; it is interesting to study and note the points at which they were in agreement.

A Summary of the Reports and Resolutions of the World Assemblies and Conference, at Toronto and Cleveland, July 27, - August 9, 1931.

THE MISSION AND MESSAGE OF THE MOVEMENT

General

Four sub-committees unitedly recommended and The Conference unanimously adopted a **Call to Youth.** In the formulation of this Call a preamble is followed by short statements dealing respectively with the present situation in the world, repentance for past inadequacies, conviction that transforming power is available, and resolution to apply Christ's law of love in all human relationships. These follow:

We the Youth and Youth Leaders of the Young Men's Christian Association of more than forty nations, met together under the watchword of "Youth's Adventure with God," desire to express our gratitude for the practical experience of the reality of God in Jesus Christ which has come to us in our profound sense of fellowship, in spite of all the political, racial, economic and national differences and we therefore unite in appealing to the Youth, not only of our own movement but of the whole World.

While gladly recognizing the presence of many constructive forces in our time, we have been deeply impressed by the fact that we live at a moment in the history of the World when relations between individuals, nations, classes and races are rapidly reaching a point of unendurable tension, a moment also in which great confusion and uncertainty exists with regard to the truths by which man must live.

In such a situation, we who believe in God through Jesus Christ realize with pain that because of our lack of courage in applying the teachings of our Master, we have lacked the power to redeem human relationships. Furthermore, we have given no such clear and dynamic witness to the reality of God as will satisfy youth in its search for the meaning of life.

We affirm, nevertheless, in spite of our failure, our strong conviction that Christ can give us the vision and power to transform human society. In Him also, as Lord of Life and Saviour of men, we discover the true vocation, purpose and fulfillment of our own lives.

We, therefore, **call upon the youth of the world,** and in the first instance upon ourselves, to pledge obedience to God's will in Christ and to the courageous and practical application of Christ's law of love to all human relationships. We would at the same time challenge youth to consider Christ's claim to reveal God and the true meaning of life.

A substitute for or addition to the fifth paragraph was offered by one sub-committee and accepted by the whole group, but lost in the delegates' committee and not submitted to the Conference. Its object was to strengthen the purpose and provide detailed suggestions to give effect to this resolution in form short enough to be easily memorized by Association members as a declaration of purpose. It is suggested that this statement (the substance of which follows), be considered with a view to general circulation among our Associations perhaps in printed form for display uses. Its implications might form the basis of program study and action by various groups.

We therefore pledge ourselves, and call upon the youth of all nations, so to live, and speak, and strive, both individually and corporately, as to help make the law of love, revealed in the life and teachings of Jesus, supreme in all human affairs.

What should be done with this Call to Youth?

Suggestions regarding policies which would give effect to this whole resolution are contained in two further paragraphs.

In order to give effect to these resolutions and make good our consecration to them, we call upon the World's Committee and the National Alliance to stimulate the working out of these convictions in the message and program of the Young Men's Christian Associations throughout the world.

We call upon the World's Committee and the National Alliances to safeguard and preserve the character of the Young Men's Christian Association as a movement rather than an institution to make it increasingly a spiritual movement of youth itself in which the directing influence shall be predominately youthful, a pioneer movement which ventures fearlessly in carrying the spirit and teaching of our Lord and Master into all the complicated relationships of modern life, whatever the cost to ourselves or our institution.

Premier R. B. BENNETT
He gave Canada's Greetings by Radio to the Cleveland Conference.

Clear calls to policies and programs of action in line with this conception of Association purposes and functions are also embodied in epoch marking pronouncements made by the Conference on the relationship of the Movement to international, to industrial, and to interracial and intercultural questions, and to its responsibility toward influencing public opinion by modern means. The gist of these as they may concern our Canadian Movement follows:

INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS

I. The Conference affirms the following as the fundamental principles:

(a) Faith in God, the Creator and Ruler of the earth, is recognized as the basis of all Christian

thought and action in the realm of international relations; faith in a God, moreover, who manifests His will and establishes His Kingdom not only in the hearts of individuals but also in the lives of nations.

(b) The Christian Community also, must serve, not only individuals but nations; and by obedience to the Master rather than to man will it inevitably contribute to understanding and peace among the nations, more effectively than through loyalty to any mere human institution.

(c) Only through the attainment of justice as well as peace can God's Love as Father be made manifest in the life of nations, today so distraught by hatred and fear.

(d) Despite the inherent difficulties and complexities of the international questions that confront the world today, God nevertheless calls Christian youth to understand and then to testify, in the spirit of bold adventure, to the saving power of His laws in this domain.

Conscious of its deep responsibility in regard to the present campaign for effective disarmament, the Conference calls upon the National Alliances to bring the full weight of their influence to bear upon their respective peoples and governments with a view to securing that the forthcoming Disarmament Conference shall result in an actual and considerable reduction and limitation of armaments.

At the same time the Conference is deeply concerned about the causes of fear and friction in the international situation of our present day and, as armaments necessarily imply a state of fear and disharmony between peoples, the Conference is convinced it is a Christian duty to strive with hope towards the goal of total disarmament and the elimination of the causes of fear and friction.

II. Nine hundred eighty-six delegates from fifty nations, having during four days of fellowship together become acutely aware of the spiritual sufferings of their German brethren, desire, in the spirit of that international brotherhood which the Association seeks to promote throughout the world, to dissociate themselves from the injustice of attributing to one nation or group of nations alone sole responsibility for the War. They affirm their conviction that war is an expression of the sin of men and that all international conflicts should be settled by pacific means. They solemnly pledge themselves to work devotedly for the removal of all causes of hatred and antagonism between nations, and to create amongst the youth of the world a spirit of justice, peace and love.

INDUSTRIAL QUESTIONS

1. The Conference affirms as guiding principles:

(a) Work for individuals is an essential Christian duty; To unite Christian young men is, undoubtedly, one of the Association's purposes. Whatever external conditions may be in which boys and young men live, one of their outstanding needs is Christian fellowship.

(b) In "associating their efforts for the extension of His Kingdom amongst young men" members will surely show a quality of life which will act as a leaven to transform the surroundings in which they live and work.

(c) "The extension of the Kingdom" among all men and all nations calls for an interpretation of the will of God for the various circumstances in which there is a contradiction between the ideal and perfect life as revealed by Jesus Christ, and the existing conditions of the world. The Associations, should have a part in the solution of social problems, and it is a Christian duty to contribute to the social Christian education of its membership and of the various social groups of the community at large.

(d) Without neglecting its duties toward individuals in order to extend the Kingdom of its Master, the Association has an obligation to take a large share in making Christian principles increasingly operative in social life with a view to the achievement of a Christian social order.

2. The Conference believes that there is necessity for nothing less than a fundamental change in the spirit of our economic life and that this change can only be effected by accepting as the basis of industrial relations the principle of co-operation in service for the common good in place of unrestricted competition for private advantage.

3. The Conference recognizes with appreciation the increasing tendency in many areas of the world on the part of industrial leaders to regard service rather than profit as the governing motive for the guidance and control of industry.

4. The Conference desires to emphasize the responsibility of industry for the general welfare of the worker and his family outside his wage merely; for his opportunity for continuous employment; and particularly for his contentment and his widened outlook upon life through some just and equitable personal participation, beyond his wages, in the fruits of his work.

5. The Conference views with the gravest concern the present world-wide economic crisis with its tragic and demoralizing effects upon our common life. Such a situation constitutes a challenge to our Christian ideals which the Associations and the Church of Christ can neither ignore nor evade. The conference regards with satisfaction the efforts already made, but feels bound to urge governments and industrial leaders throughout the world to take such further steps as may be necessary to ensure the means of livelihood to the millions immediately effected by the present unemployment and also to modify the structure of the existing industrial order in such a way as to prevent in the future the recurrence of such a condition. In particular, we believe that the World's Alliance, through the various National Councils and other appropriate channels, should call attention to the devastating effects which the industrial situation is having on the mind, body and spirit of youth, and should urge that immediate further steps be taken by govern-

ment and leaders of commerce and industry to give youth opportunity to gain a livelihood until economic stability is restored. We further call upon local Boards of Directors the world over to take immediate action in making a careful study of the economic situation as it effects youth in their various countries with a view to instituting such ways and means as may quickly alleviate the present economic distress of the young men concerned and prevent, as far as possible, the demoralization which such a condition inevitably entails.

INTERCULTURAL AND INTERRACIAL RELATIONS

I. This Conference endorses the following Statements of Basic Principles:

(a) It is our conviction that racial and cultural variations offer an opportunity for enrichment of culture through fellowship across racial and cultural lines. This variation in no sense justifies a sense of inferiority or superiority on the part of any group.

(b) We further affirm our conviction that all races have a real contribution to make to the enrichment of the life of humanity. We should, therefore facilitate in every way possible the making of such contribution by every group in the community.

(c) The supreme value of the personality of every man is clearly set forth in the teaching of Jesus, and is one of the unique contributions of Christianity to human relationships; therefore it is not Christian for any institution to be indifferent to situations in which human beings are scorned or treated with disrespect.

(d) Since all people are children of a common father, we deny that stage of cultural achievement has any real bearing on inferiority or superiority of race. We believe that all races are capable of full cultural, mental and spiritual development and we call on all Associations to facilitate this development for all men and boys in all lands.

(e) The Young Men's Christian Association has a common obligation to all the young men and boys of any community in which it exists. We express our conviction that in conformity with the law of Christ it is the duty of every Association not to forget or neglect any group of young men or boys living in its community or to exclude them membership merely on account of race.

II. This Conference declares its conviction that patience without effort toward improvement is unchristian.

We recognize that there may be limitations at present on the distance any local Association may go in serving varying racial groups together, but we urge upon every Association the obligation to take the following next steps, in order that our movement may the sooner come to what we believe is the ultimate goal of our institution; namely, the making possible of the enlistment and full participation in the Association enterprise of all classes of young men and boys in the community without distinction of race, culture or nationality.

PUBLIC OPINION

In the present crisis of the world order, the responsible position of the Young Men's Christian Association, as the largest World body of Christian young men, requires that the World Alliance should both endeavor to serve its immediate Association Constituency and undertake to represent Christian youth of the world in a concerted and specific endeavor to influence society at large through literature, the cinema and the radio.

It is generally recognized that the cinema is an educational agency of great potentiality for the development of moral character and for the promotion of international and inter-racial good-will. The Sub-committee laments that these possibilities are so little realized in the productions appearing on the screen; particularly do we protest against those films which portray the indecencies of family and social life and caricature the characteristics of nationalities.

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE WITH THESE PRONOUNCEMENTS?

These pronouncements were accompanied by recommendations which involve action by local Associations or National Alliances or both, in substance as follows:

The Conference calls upon the National Alliances to bring the full weight of their influence to bear upon bring the full weight of their influence to bear upon their respective peoples and governments with a view to securing that the forthcoming Disarmament Conference shall result in an actual and considerable reduction and limitation of armaments. At the same time the Conference is deeply concerned about the causes of fear and friction in the international situation of our present day and as armaments necessarily imply a state of fear and disharmony between peoples, the Conference is convinced it is a Christian duty to strive with hope towards the goal of total disarmament and the elimination of the causes of fear and friction.

Industrial

The Conference desires that the following recommendations be sent to National Alliances and through them to local Associations:

(a) That Associations everywhere regard it as a privilege and responsibility to maintain an open platform for the public discussion of social and economic questions.

(b) That through forums, study groups etc., a vigorous program of popular education on industrial questions be conducted for Association members.

(c) That having regard to the historic genius of the Association in bringing together different races, in a common programme, the Association extend this ministry to the various groups in industry with a view to promoting such a frank interchange of views as may promote mutual understanding and facilitate the solution of industrial conflicts.

(d) That local Associations throughout the world be urged to examine thoughtfully their own practices as employers, not only in relation to their secretarial, but also to their clerical and house staffs, with a view to ensuring that in such matters as a living wage, conditions of labor, and adequate social protection, a practical demonstration be given in their various communities.

The Conference asks the World's Alliance to recommend to the National Councils and through them or through other appropriate channels to the local Associations that wherever practicable:

(a) The good offices of the Association be extended towards a settlement of any dispute in the local community between employer and employee including the promotion of friendly meetings for the mutual discussion of disputed issues.

(b) The Boards of Directors or other governing bodies in the local Associations shall bring together the heads of the various business concerns within their community with a view to discussing ways and means of relieving the distress and unemployment amongst the membership of their Association.

(c) The Associations shall impress upon the Churches the necessity for collaboration with them in a campaign for the educating of youth to understand and appreciate the fundamental difficulties of the present social crisis.

Intercultural

We call upon every Association to:

(a) Carry forward an educational program on racial understanding. There are few subjects on which there is less accurate information and more deep-seated prejudice. It is our bounden duty to help remove such ignorance and prejudice through all educational processes which we may be able to command.

(b) Frequently provide a platform for differing races to speak through their respective leaders.

(c) Bring together from time to time the choicest spirits of differing racial groups for conference and acquaintance, in order that each group may come to know the other at its best.

(d) Take care in calling national gatherings of the Y.M.C.A. in any country, to see that all delegates may be received without discrimination as to accommodation and privileges.

Public Opinion

We suggest that definite action be taken by National Movements

(a) Through direct negotiation with producers to insure positive moral value in films produces.

(b) Through the organization of a body of consultants for the World's Alliance, consisting of one or two persons in different countries.

(c) By collaboration with other institutions and agencies having aims similar to those of the Association in this field.

(d) By releasing more generally and more fully through the National Movements information regarding films of positive value for the moral life of youth, as already is being done in the U.S.A. Y.M.C.A. Magazine "Young Men."

What should be done with these recommendations?

Association practice in many aspects was also considered by the Conference. Resolutions and recommendations were passed on such phases as leadership, membership, young men's work, work with boys, and special program activities such as physical education, and sex education:

LEADERSHIP

In view of:

(a) The demand of the Young Men's Christian Associations for spiritual leadership by men who recognize the personal leadership of Jesus Christ and the regenerating power of the love of God in every area of life;

(b) The response to the interests of youth made by other agencies and associations of a non-Christian emphasis under highly trained and specialized leadership, and the consequent urgent need for both lay and secretarial leaders who are equipped with specialized skill and technique in the field of activity undertaken by the Association;

(c) The too largely professional and adult leadership of the Movement as it exists at present.

The Conference registers the paramount necessity for:

(a) The leadership of the Association being drawn from among men of strong Christian conviction and discipleship.

(b) The voluntary character of leadership being strongly emphasized, and better methods for the training of lay leadership in all Association activities being developed.

(c) Older boys and young men being given a more important place in the processes of legislation and control within the Association, in local Associations as well as in National Alliances.

Several definite suggestions for action were directed to the World's Committee in this report. Suggestions regarding leadership and the training of leaders were offered also in reports and resolutions dealing with sex education, physical education, young men's work and work with boys.

These items are selected from this resolution,

(a) In order to preserve and promote the Christian and missionary character of the Associations the following should be regarded as a minimum for those admitted to the governing or active membership:

A personal commitment to the purpose of the Association.

A personal commitment to the Christian fellowship of the Association and its obligations.

Active participation in the work of the Association.

Admission to the membership by worthy ceremonial or publication of name, and not by the mere payment of a fee.

(b) The World Conference urges upon National Alliances to re-examine the rules of membership which obtain throughout their areas and to take steps to insure that these are consistent with the Paris Basis.

(c) It is suggested that every National Alliance should institute a study of the aims and objectives for which the Association exists and formulate these in a statement which will set forth clearly the meaning and obligations of membership.

YOUNG MEN'S WORK

R. F. McWILLIAMS, Winnipeg
Interpreted Canada to Young Men's Assembly.

A clause in the resolution adopted on Young Men's Work calls upon National Alliances to make the widest possible use of sections of the Report to Cleveland of the Toronto Assembly. Excerpts follow:

(1) The Challenge

The environment of youth is that of a secularized and mechanised civilization. Within it young men face the struggle for personal character, the quest of the meaning and purpose of life, the finding of their niche in industry, establishing their home and family life, their responsibilities to the community and the State, and through and in these experiences they need a basis for faith that will enable them to see life as an adventure with God as the ultimate Reality.

(2) The Task

If the Association is to retain the opportunity of serving young men among the organizations engaged in work on behalf of youth and to cope with the competition of commercialized entertainment, it must strive after the utmost efficiency and seek to acquire the highest skill in its methods and technique. And along with this it must possess a spirit of missionary enterprise which will be urging it always to venture into fresh fields and to make new experiments. The task of the Association far transcends that of providing for the many needs and interests of youth. It is to cooperate with youth in the quest for the satisfaction of these needs and to lead it through the pursuit of these interests to a sense of its need of God for the integration of its whole life and to the commitment of that life to Him. In the pursuit of this supreme aim of all our work we must concern ourselves with the whole range of young men's interests.

(a) The Association Movement must concern itself directly and significantly with the economic life of young men and the problems they face in getting a living.

(b) The Cultural heritage of the human race in literature, music, the drama, travel, and the several branches of scientific inquiry must be seen as a storehouse of resources for the spiritual growth of young men and the enrichment of their common life.

(c) So, too must the Association see in the problems facing young men with regard to their personal sex behaviours and in their preparation for their own family life, opportunities for the achievement of their most important Christian objectives.

(d) Active forms of play and recreation, as well as being the natural expressions of the brotherly fellowship into which members have entered are additional resources of the Association Movement in carrying the Christian message to young men in and outside the membership

(e) If worldwide peace and brotherhood are to be realized we can help by getting an increasing number of young men to accept these as vital concerns. The Y.M.C.A. Movement in all lands must seek by the Grace of God and through numerous forms of activity to develop among its members attitudes of understanding, tolerance, and active goodwill.

(3) The Power and Consecration

Through corporate worship and private prayer, through patient study of His Word as revealed in the Bible and in life, leaders should equip themselves for cooperation with this hopeful generation of young men in realizing the fullness of life in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Redeemer, on every front of their many-sided present-day experience.

To the pursuit of these aims and the utilization of these and other resources of the spiritual life we commit ourselves and call our brotherhood throughout the world.

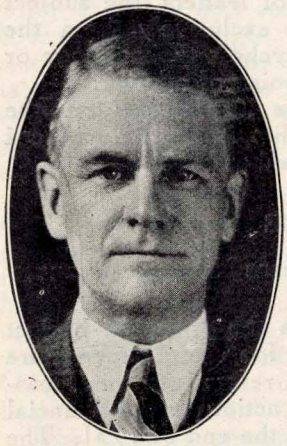
In one respect the report of the Young Men's Assembly was incomplete. While the Assembly (Toronto) approved of the report there was a decided opinion, emphatically expressed, that it did not deal adequately with some questions that had been of burning interest to members of the Assembly. Both formal and informal groups discussed such questions as the economic condition of young men, war and peace, and international relations, on which many felt very deeply. It is recognized that these questions are of interest, not only for young men, but for the whole Association Movement and they therefore referred them to the Cleveland Conference. (Many of these concerns found expression at Cleveland in resolutions referred to in the early sections of this report of the work of the Assemblies.)

WORK WITH BOYS

The report of the Toronto Assembly of Workers with Boys deals with the World of Boyhood, wherein we have failed, our common tasks, and makes many specific recommendations on message, mission, movement, methods, leadership, and a policy and plan for world-wide action. In adopting this report the Cleveland Conference called upon the World's Committee and the National Alliances to support with all possible resources and personnel further extension and intensification of work with boys.

SOME OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

1—That the World's Committee give special consideration to the ways in which the religious message of the Association can be so presented as to appeal to the various ages in our Association membership, calling also upon National Alliances and local Associations to give similar special attention to this problem.



R. G. DINGMAN
Chairman Boys' Workers' Assembly.

2—That we go on record as urging all Associations to take definite steps toward the goal of making possible full participation in the Association programme without discrimination as to race, colour, or nationality.

3—That in the light of the experience which we have already gained in the interchange of boys between nations, the World's Committee and the National Alliances make arrangements for larger numbers of boys to exchange visits to the camps, homes and Associations in the various nations.

4—That the World's Committee urge National Alliances and local Associations to hold annually, on a date to be agreed upon, Fires of Friendship throughout the World.

We believe that Christians face the necessity of fixing their attention on the details of the many situations wherein they find themselves and wherein decisions of the wide importance to boy-life are being made without any reference whatever to the claims or implications of Christian teaching. Thus new manifestations of the Y.M.C.A. may come about in small groupings of men or boys in business organizations, places of employment, schools, etc., who band together in any agreement to make certain that decisions are made only after the Christian values have at least been clearly seen. Therefore we present the following recommendations:

1—That the World's Committee and the National Alliance encourage such manifestations and study how such groups may be brought into full affiliation.

2—That the World's Committee and the National Alliance continue and extend the emphasis on the place of the older boy, through such means as: (a) making provision for attendance and participation of older boys in our conference and gatherings, (b) setting up an organizational arrangement which will give older boys an opportunity to express themselves regionally, nationally and internationally.

A large number of boys in the membership of the Y.M.C.A.'s all over the world do not profess the Christian faith, or owe their allegiance to other religions. Some of them are one with us in their spirit or in their active pursuance of Christian purposes. We seek to share with all on a mutual plane the best that we and they possess. We desire to associate them with us in participation in our programme. Therefore we present these recommendations:

1—That the World's Committee give special study to the conditions under which the participation of non-Christian boys and workers may be had while still preserving the essentially Christian character of our movement.

2—That the World's Committee take advantage of the very valuable work done at Toronto in the demonstrations and exhibits section by providing a booklet which will describe what transpired there, together with a statement of the place arts, crafts, etc. may have in our work, and of the relationship of such activities to our central aim.

3—That the World's Committee encourage all those responsible for leadership training to introduce the definite study of international problems into the curricula of our training courses, institutes and agencies wherever possible.

4—That the National Alliances offer cooperation to the World's Committee in taking steps to perfect a plan for conserving and applying the results of these Assemblies and of the World's Conference throughout the World.

SUGGESTED OUTLINE FOR ABOVE COOPERATION

Area Conferences

It is proposed that a series of area conferences be held at strategic centers throughout the world to be attended by selected delegates from the National Alliances of the respective areas, the purpose being to study the implications of the findings and reports of these meetings in the various National and local situations of the respective areas.

Visitations

It is proposed that International visitation teams be arranged as a result of these conferences to carry the message and experience of these meetings to local and national groups.

Adaptation

It is understood that the programmes for these conferences would be built around the special needs of the areas.

Cooperation

The entire project would be drawn up with the fullest collaboration of the Extension Committee of the World's Committee and of the sending Alliances, as well as in consultation with other world Christian organizations.

Specialized Conference

It is proposed that in this plan there be integrated the convening work or area conferences around certain major problems of Boys' Work, such as the following:

Rural Youth and the Y.M.C.A.

Industrial Boys' and the Y.M.C.A.

Work with Secondary School Boys.

The World's Committee was urged to take steps to bring together in a fellowship of consultation the secretaries assigned by National Councils to work with boys, to the end that the particular problems of National Boys Work Secretaries may be the more speedily solved.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The Conference commended to National Alliances the statement on the place of physical education in the Associations as given in the report of the World's Committee "Facing a World Crisis," pages 265 and 266, and emphasized the sections on leadership and the place of competition as dealt with in the same report, pages 267-270. Two or three clauses should be noted here:

"We desire to reaffirm our conviction that Physical Education constitutes an essential element in the development of young men and boys.

"While fully conscious of the moral values to be derived from physical activities, we are of opinion that the Association should withstand any claims that Physical Education can by itself suffice to meet the spiritual needs of man."

"We would accordingly express the hope that the World's Committee may take an early opportunity of urging upon all National Alliances the undertaking of a careful scientific study of the problems of Physical Education and Sport, and especially of those relating to the technique of character building through physical activities and of the athletic administration appropriate to this end; of the best methods of recruiting and training leaders; of ways for the better and more complete coordination of the physical work of the Association with the other activities of its programme; and of the means for the general advancement of ideals of sport."

FAMILY AND SEX RELATIONS

The Conference was of the opinion that while, ideally, sex instruction should be given by the parent and should start in the earliest years, satisfying the child's curiosity, it should be realized that many parents feel incapable of doing this and that subsequently the Y.M.C.A. has the dual responsibility of educating, first, the present generation of boys; second, the parents for transmission to their children.

The Conference recommends that the subject of Sex should be treated not as an isolated fact but as a vital part of the normal life experience, therefore, Association lay leaders and Secretaries whatever their function, should be conversant with the approved methods of sex education and that this should be considered an essential part of their training.

The Conference urges that in the production of literature for the education of leaders, the subject should not be approached exclusively from the point of view of religion, psychology, sociology or biology, but from the standpoint of all four.

It was also agreed by the Conference that the Association has a responsibility in the field of sex education among adults as well as boys.

FINANCE

One other resolution concerns National Alliances. It follows.

The Conference authorizes the proposed budget for 1932 as presented, calling for a total expenditure of Swiss francs 285,000, and refers it to the Treasurer's Committee for further action as the financial situation may present itself at the end of 1931. The Conference would urge that all National Alliances should increase their contribution to the work of the World's Committee and adopt the practice of making monthly or quarterly remittances.

OTHER CONCERNS

Other important resolutions in which initiative for action was left largely with the World's Committee, but which also concern us all, and should be understood by all well informed Association men, were passed. They had to do with:

1. Week of Prayer,
2. Bible Study,
3. Oecumenical questions.
4. Migration,
5. Rural Work,
6. Associations in non Christian countries,
7. Service to overseas students and visitors,
8. Extension of the Association in the world field,
9. Cooperation with other world movements,
10. Resolutions of thanks,
11. Alterations in the Constitution of the World Alliance.

Full report of these will be available in the official reports.

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE WITH THESE RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS?

SOME INTERESTING SIDE-LIGHTS OF THE CONFERENCE

It takes at least three days for a man or boy not habituated to international gatherings to catch the rhythm of a series of meetings charged with the electricity always present in an assembly where there is at once the mingling of differing backgrounds and the inevitable clash of cultures. The contacts of Slav and Teuton, Latin and Anglo-Saxon, Orient and Occident, are so sparkling, and what with the endless interpretation going on everywhere the pace is so slowed down that at times one feels like being propelled by fits and starts in a badly working motor car. First you are being jerked out of your intellectual or religious seat by some extraordinary idea and then you are waiting in a dead hiatus while the idea gets scattered around the room in four or five languages. As a boy from Corry, Pa., said in one of the Boys' Discussion Groups: "There is so much process to go through that when I got ready to speak I have forgotton what I intended to say." At that, he said something every time he spoke.

Anyone who has a doubt about the influence of the Y.M.C.A. in international friendship or the organization's ability to bring together different nationals in happy and effective concourse should have been around Toronto these past days. Sitting at the table one noon at lunch, the boy next to me was from New York, then came a boy from Uruguay, next a lad from Pennsylvania followed by boys from Scotland, Germany and Hawaii, in order.

One day we needed an interpreter in Spanish and somebody produced a Chinese boy would could speak Chinese, Japanese, French, English and Spanish. So we put him next to a Mexican boy and all went well. Another day we were trying to get a better balance nationally in some of the discussion groups and a negro discussion leader spoke up in all seriousness and said "I will swap two Americans and a Canadian for one Russian, with any other group leader."

The Russian Orthodox Church Choir of Cleveland gave us a half-hour of deeply moving music,—some hundred voices, men and women. It occurred to me that here was a culture somewhat without a land of its own, just at present, and I wondered how that dignified flow of song would affect the emotions of the Russians from Esthonia and France with its poignant appeal, carrying the message of an exiled faith.

A delegate has just come in saying that Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr's address on "The Crisis of Society" has just been delivered in a plenary session, and he exploded a bombshell. Cheers and applause at great length followed the final words of his earnest presentation. The Young Men's Christian Associations may have, somewhere, held a more important and vital convention than this, but there are many here who doubt whether any meeting of the organization has ever attained such absolute honesty and far-reaching viewpoints on questions of the deepest concern to Christian work with young men and boys throughout the world.

Dr. Best said God was always revealing himself in new ways, that creeds should be milestones to mark our progress not mill stones to impede our spiritual movement. Difference in methods and practice were to be expected in an organization like the Y.M.C.A. He pulled a good one about a boy who said that American religion was somewhat like Chinese Everyone had his own belief and that it was called **"Confusionism."** If any boy said that, he must have had a good I.Q.

The shifting of our forces at home has caused much heart-burning, but we can hope for good results from the earnest re-study of our work.

A Summary of the Resolutions of the 43rd International Convention of the North American Associations held in Cleveland, August 5-7, 1931.

This convention was probably the most progressive of the forty-three; it was known for months in advance that live issues of great significance were to be most earnestly and aggressively tackled. The resulting decisions in the form of resolutions only came after struggles which lasted late into the night. The amazing and almost complete unanimity for such an advance, of that large and representative group can only be explained by the pressure and the demands of this unusual day in which we live.

The first resolution's purpose is two-fold in recognizing the local autonomy of Associations in their right to determine their course on these matters also it points out the significance of the Convention's decisions and urges that local associations study them intensively and proceed to translate them into programme.

A COVERING RESOLUTION

Resolved that the 43rd International Convention of the Young Men's Christian Associations of Canada and the United States recognize the ultimate authority of local Associations to determine their own course of action on current questions of social policy.

E. G. BAKER
President International Convention.

However, as a Convention, made up of the most representative cross-section of our North American brotherhood which has assembled during the present critical period in National and International relations, we cannot be unmindful of the solemn responsibility

which is ours, for recording our own convictions as a Convention, on vital questions of deep concern to our membership, made up as it is of all ages, races, and groups. As a Convention we strongly urge local Associations to make possible full discussions, and prompt and favorable consideration of the findings which this Convention now makes.

I. NEXT STEPS IN RELIGIOUS EMPHASIS

In the moral confusion and spiritual poverty disclosed by the distressing social conditions of our day we find a fresh summons to a distinctively religious emphasis in the entire program of the Young Men's Christian Associations. When confronted, for example, by such a tragic spectacle as millions of men are threatened with starvation, at the same time that our granaries are overflowing with food, we become acutely aware how far short we have come of making spiritual forces regnant in our social life. What appear on the surface as economic and political problems are at bottom spiritual problems. The failures of civilization mean a failure of the agencies of organized religion to produce personalities with a commanding Christ-like sensitiveness to human need and suffering and a Christ-like passion for justice and brotherhood. Clearer than anything else today, we hear the call for a more heroic personal acceptance of the full meaning of the Christian Gospel.

The Young Men's Christian Association we regard as being, in its essential genius, a world-wide fellowship of men and boys united by a common loyalty to Jesus Christ for the purpose of building Christian personality and a Christian society.

In the light of this conception of the nature of the Association, we make the following recommendations:

1. That every local Association be urged to make a careful and penetrating study of its own objectives, with a view to clarifying those objectives in the thinking of its own members, so that the essential Christian meaning and function of the Association may be kept steadily in view.

2. That each Association be urged to develop its varied program in clear relationship to the central religious purpose of the movement. All our activities—educational, physical, recreational, social—and all our administrative policies must be tested by the extent to which they show actual results in the development of Christian character, habits and ideals. All that we do should be seen in definite relation to our supreme task of bringing men into fuller fellowship with God as revealed in Christ, to securing their deeper commitment to His redemptive purpose for the world, and leading them to assume the personal and social obligations of Christian discipleship.

3. That for the deepening of the religious objective of the Association and the development of Christian character in its members, renewed emphasis be placed upon the study of the Bible, and and His significance for all the problems of modern life.

4. That in the selection and training of leadership—whether secretarial or lay—greater attention be given to religious qualifications. If there is to be a spiritual dynamic in our entire program it must come, first of all, through the lives of those who are its responsible leaders. An indispensable test for acceptable leadership in any phase of the Association's work should be a personal fellowship with God and unquestioned loyalty to Jesus Christ and His way of life. Technical qualifications and skill must be combined with deep religious experience.

5. That in carrying out the basic religious purpose of the Association its leaders should utilize to the full the direct personal approach to the concrete problems, interests and needs of youth in the changing world of today,—such needs as are connected with their daily work, their recreation, their health, their education, their social relationships — and through personal contacts become sympathetic and skillful counselors. All such contacts in the many-sided activities of the Association's program should lead on and help to meet the deepest of all the needs of youth by bringing them to appreciate and lay hold of the true meaning of life as revealed in Jesus Christ.

6. While religious values may inhere in any program, it requires constant attention and trained leadership to make certain that in practice they are really secured, and local Associations greatly need guidance in this difficult task. We, therefore, recommend to the National Councils of the United States and of Canada, that they provide,—either through a permanent committee with adequate secretarial service or through some other equally competent means,—for giving the largest possible effect to the recommendations herein set forth; and for taking such other steps as may be found advisable in helping the Associations to maintain and strengthen the distinctively Christian character of the movement.

II. OPEN DISCUSSION OF SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Resolved that the Y.M.C.A.'s of North America should regard as one of their fundamental privileges and functions the maintenance of an open platform on which may be discussed all questions affecting the economic, social, political, and spiritual welfare of the community and of the world.

That the Associations should develop and actively promote a program of social and Christian education with the view of helping to educate public opinion for the purpose of reconstructing our social order in the light of, and upon the basis of, the Teachings of Jesus.

Our failure to adopt such a program would indicate that we are satisfied with conditions as they now exist.

There is a growing attitude on the part of all thinking groups to discover ways of creating a

better and more Christian social order. A distinct responsibility, therefore, rests upon the Associations to help to create public opinion founded upon justice and brotherhood to the end that happiness and an abundant life may be possible among all people.

III. INTER-RACIAL RELATIONS

Whereas the great majority of the adult and thinking constituency of over ten million people of the Negro race in the United States, are even to a casual observer unhappy as regards race relations; whereas visitors and residents of other races and of other nations are often subjected to unequal opportunities; whereas one cannot experience the fullest joys of Christian life without having a feeling of sympathy with and appreciation of his fellowmen; whereas the present economic and social cost of racial antagonism rests heavily upon both races; and since the teachings of Jesus clearly place upon a Christian Association the duties and opportunity of finding a solution for these difficulties, we believe the International Convention of the Y.M.C.A.'s of the United States and Canada should take a stand upon inter-racial relations which makes clear its position.

We are conscious of many encouraging steps that have been taken, especially the Inter-Racial Commission, Federal Council of Churches, individual organizations, persons and many Y.M.C.A.'s.

We therefore recommend that this Convention go on record as strongly urging its secretarial staff and boards of directors and committees of State and local Associations to move forward in remedying this condition of inter-racial inequality and injustice as rapidly as possible. This plan should include a careful study of the literature and facts now available, a comprehensive program of education to be formulated and promoted throughout its entire field, that new and forward leading experiments in inter-race relations be constantly tried out, and that we continue to make efforts to secure equal opportunities in all fields for all of the people.

We endorse recommendation No. 5 of the Report of the Toronto Assembly:

That we go on record as urging all Associations to take definite steps toward the goal of making possible full participation in the Association program without discrimination as to race, color, or nationality.

As a matter of information, it should be added that this Recommendation No. 5 has its origin in the discussion groups of the boys at the Toronto Assembly and passed by them.

IV. UNEMPLOYMENT

Whereas the Y.M.C.A.'s are working constantly with hundreds of thousands of young men, they have been compelled during these days of financial depression to view with the deepest concern the apparently hopeless plight of the mass of unemployed. This problem is so vast and these conditions are so destructive of human personality that the Associations believe it essential to voice their conviction regarding employer and employee relations.

Be it therefore resolved that this International Convention of the Young Men's Christian Associations of North America approve the following statement of social ideals that have been framed by a notable committee of churchmen for the prayerful consideration of all Christians.

1. The right of all men to the opportunity for self maintenance and safe guarding this right of continuous and sustaining employment against encroachments of every kind; a living, all-the-year-round, wage as a minimum, adjusted to the needs of the family rather than the isolated individual; above this a social wage, permitting wage-earners and their families a due share in the wealth and prosperity of the industry and the community, without discrimination of sex or race.

2. Safeguarding of all workers, men as well as women and children, against injurious occupations and conditions of labor; adequate protection against occupational injuries, diseases, and deaths.

3. Gradual and reasonable reduction of hours of labor to the lowest practicable point as the productivity of industry increases; and for all, that degree of leisure which is a condition of the highest human life; release from employment at least one day in seven, working toward the five-day working week as fast as practicable.

4. The right and social necessity of employees and employers alike to organize; adequate means of conciliation and arbitration in industrial disputes; the extension of cooperative management and ownership; the development of cooperation between employer or employers' organizations and labor organizations, aided by industrial technicians, to facilitate production and eliminate waste.

5. Insurance, socially administered at cost, against invalidism, disabilities from illness and occupational injuries, want in old age, and enforced unemployment.

6. The progressive development and application of Christian principles to the acquisition and use of property; the most equitable division of the product of industry that can be devised.

And be it further resolved that in advocating these social ideals for adoption generally, the Associations themselves should seek to apply these principles in their own practices and relations as employers.

V. DISARMAMENT

WHEREAS, we recognize that the creation of international good will is one of the highest forms of patriotism, and

WHEREAS, the Young Men's Christian Association around the world is striving for international fellowship and cooperation, and

WHEREAS, war is destructive of all essential Christian values, and

WHEREAS, economic distress among all peoples makes imperative the lifting of the intolerable burden of heavy armament, and

WHEREAS, fifty-eight nations have signed the Pact of Paris renouncing war as an instrument of national policy, and

WHEREAS, a disarmament conference called by the League of Nations is soon to assemble,

RESOLVED that the 43rd International Convention of the Young Men's Christian Associations of the United States and Canada hereby conveys to our respective governments the earnest desire that the selection and instruction of delegates to the Geneva Conference on Disarmament be such that the whole weight of our national influence be thrown in favor of a thorough-going program of disarmament.

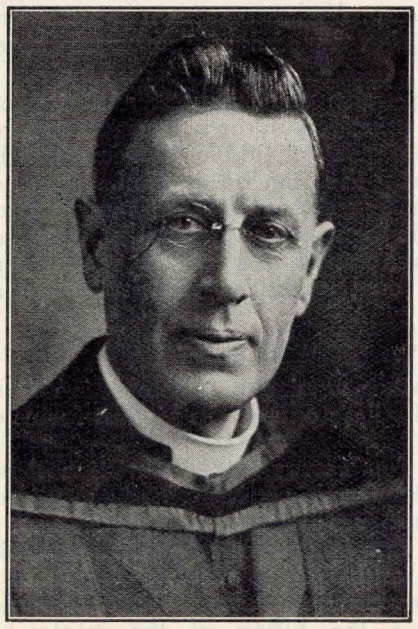
We call upon all local Associations and upon every member of our brotherhood to do everything possible to guarantee that the forthcoming conference shall result in an actual and considerable reduction in armed forces; and that it be followed by whatever additional steps are necessary to secure the desired results.

We further urge local Associations to make this the occasion for inaugurating definite, systematic programs of study and free and open discussion among their members of the basic causes of international friction and of the means necessary to secure the peaceful adjustment of international disputes which may arise.

VI. REQUESTING FURTHER ACTION ON DISARMAMENT PROPOSALS

Resolved that our respective National Councils be requested to authorize and expedite the preparation and dissemination of program material suitable for use in informing our general membership and in mobilizing effectively the public opinion of the communities in which our Associations are functioning on the necessity for material reduction in armament.

Resolved further that we strongly urge each and every local Association through its official board and as many membership groups as possible forthwith to adopt resolutions relating to the supreme need for material reduction in armament, of the same or similar tenor as the resolution adopted by this Convention.



DR. GEO. C. PIDGEON, Toronto
Speaker at Toronto and Cleveland.

VII. REGARDING MACINTOSH DECISION

Whereas, this in an International Convention of the Young Men's Christian Associations of Canada and the United States, and

Whereas, Professor Clyde MacIntosh, of Yale University, was a citizen of Canada and now wishes to become a citizen of the United States, and

Whereas Professor MacIntosh has fully demonstrated his patriotism, and

Whereas this Convention does recognize the right and duty of every person to be faithful to the highest dictates of the spirit of God as revealed to his conscience,

Be it Resolved that we urge the legislative bodies of our respective countries to amend existing naturalization laws, if necessary, so as to provide for the naturalization of such conscientious objectors as Professor MacIntosh.

DISCRIMINATION AGAINST NATIONALS

RESOLVED: that in the interests of international justice, this Convention request the National Councils of Canada and the United States to present declarations to their respective governments favoring the elimination from their immigration laws of provisions discriminating as between the citizens of the various nations.

LIQUOR AND NARCOTICS

RESOLVED: that the Y.M.C.A.'s of North America stand for protection of the individual and society from the social, economic, and moral waste of the traffic in intoxicants and narcotics; observance and enforcement of liquor laws; and educational work to promote personal abstinence from intoxicating beverages and habit-forming drugs based upon an enlightened realization of their harmful effects.

VIII. A STUDY OF REVISION OF THE SOCIAL CREED OF THE CHURCHES

RESOLVED: that the Associations of Canada and of the United States be requested to study the draft of the proposed revision of The Social Creed of the Churches being formulated by The Federal Council of The Churches of Christ in America and that the National Councils of Canada and The United States be requested to cooperate with The Federal Council in its work on the Revision of The Social Creed of the Churches.

IX. MEMBERSHIP PROPOSALS

The Convention adopted the joint Committee on Membership's major recommendation providing for the transfer of responsibility for determining all questions concerning the basis of voting membership of local Associations to the two National Councils.

The student membership proposals therefore go to the National Council of the United States for consideration.

X. "WOOD" AMENDMENTS

In view of the above action on membership proposals Mr. Wood for his group moved to table the

proposed amendments to the Standing Rules of the Convention, and further announced his intention to press similar amendments to the Constitution of the National Council (United States).

REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN ON THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE'S REPORT

The Convention—

(a) Elected new International Committee of fifty members;

(b) Appointed a committee responsible for the next International Convention;

(c) Authorized continued effort to find ways of meeting legal conditions of transferring International Committee properties and trust funds to the two National Councils.

IT WASN'T ALL SMOOTH SAILING!

Across the platform was strung the motto of the Assembly—"Youth's Adventure with God." But a Chinese delegate, Vice-Chairman of the Assembly, said that the document was too American and too much like an old man who had lost his teeth.

In the same session, another Vice-Chairman—an African this time—pointing to the motto, said, "There can be no adventure with God or with anyone else without 'intestinal fortitude'," and in the findings of this report he said that he found "no courage."

CANADA'S SHARE IN THE LEADERSHIP OF THE WORLD AND INTERNATIONAL GATHERINGS

In addition to the large place taken by Canadian secretaries, the laymen rendered a significant service at various strategic points where they did honor both to themselves and to the Movement.

Dr. George C. Pidgeon of Bloor Street United Church, Toronto, prepared and led one of the Services of Worship at the Young Men's Assembly in Toronto; also he gave the closing address to the International Convention at Cleveland.

R. F. McWilliams of Winnipeg addressed the Young Men's Assembly at Toronto, giving an interpretation of "Canadian Life."

E. G. Baker, Toronto, was the Chairman of the International Convention and elected to the Presidency of that Convention for the ensuing term.

Russell G. Dingman, Chairman of Canadian National Council Home Division, was the Chairman of the Boys' Assembly at Toronto and elected to the Chairmanship of the World's Boys' Work Committee.

The Right Honorable R. B. Bennett, Premier of Canada, gave Canada's greetings to the World's Conference in a most inspiring radio address during a broadcast in which President Hoover participated.

A SUGGESTED PROCEDURE FOR FOLLOWING UP THE TORONTO AND CLEVELAND CONFERENCES

The recommendations and resolutions which may be looked upon as goals or objectives, fall into four distinct groups which should be taken into account when considering what can be done about them:

(a) Resolutions pertaining to the World's Alliance's policy and programmes.

(b) Recommendations to National Alliances.

(c) Recommendations to local Associations.

(d) Calls to and suggestions for individual members of local Associations.

The Canadian National Council Executive is giving careful consideration to the resolutions with which the Council should be intimately concerned, but it will require the closest co-operation of local secretaries and laymen in a study of these matters because they will be the basis of the programme of the next National Council meeting.

The following suggestions are offered for local Associations:

(a) Circulate to Directors and leading members, a complete text of the recommendations, with suggestions for discussion and procedures to get an informed constituency and ultimately intelligent action. It may be better to break it up for some individuals' or groups' to consider as special concerns.

(b) Have staffs study the whole report with the view to translating the resolutions into terms of programme.

(c) Discuss the meaning of these resolutions for local Associations and for individual members, in Boards of Directors' meetings, Committees, Y's Men's Clubs, and group meetings.

(d) Use as a basis of local programme-planning conferences.

(e) Discuss the resolutions of National scope with Board of Directors and particularly with the National Council member, in preparation for the next National Council meeting and for discussion by correspondence, with the National Council office or with visiting National Secretaries.

A SUGGESTED METHOD OF CONSIDERING HOW THE CONFERENCES' RESOLUTIONS CAN BE TRANSLATED IN PROGRAMME

(a) Consider all the resolutions as possible objectives for this Association, and select those which are considered to be most pertinent to the local situation.

(b) Resolution (Select one for consideration).

(c) What needs, issues and other considerations gave rise to this resolution? Give ample time to considering these.

(d) What questions and problems does it raise for this Association?

(e) What programmes does it suggest? Which of these are not now a part of our local programme?

(f) What organization is essential to carry out this programme?

(g) What are its budget requirements in staff, equipment, printed matter, etc.?

(h) What methods and techniques are required to carry out such a programme?

(i) What necessary tools are available? (Survey forms, tests.)

(j) What Resource materials are available? (Books on subject, outlines of similar projects, research reports, pamphlets, articles in magazines.)

(k) Who will undertake to carry this project through?

The Tenth Annual Y's Men's Convention, Cleveland, August 3 - 7, 1931.

Running simultaneously with the World Conference at Cleveland and jointly in some of its main sessions, the Y's Men's Clubs held another of their most interesting and inspiring conventions.

Many of the outstanding speakers and leaders of the larger gathering shared in the Y's Men's programme and contributed very much of value to Y'sdom.

The total registration was well over the three hundred mark; thirty-two Canadians were present from fourteen Associations and representing the provinces from Prince Edward Island to British Columbia. Vancouver had 4 delegates present.

RELIGION IN THE Y'S MEN'S CLUBS

"Y's Men are very much concerned with the religious aspects of the Y.M.C.A., the highest values contained therein, and the manner in which this religion permeates every endeavor of the Association whether it be institutional or programme. They are concerned with certain institutional features of the Y which at times have appeared to dominate purposeful membership. Their hope is that the Y.M.C.A. Movement will revert to the Movement aspects, at the same time preserving those institutional features which serve as a part of our working equipment and have economic values in producing needed revenues to maintain the work.

Furthermore the Y's Men are seeking to bring about a united fellowship of young men who recognize and subscribe to the great lessons, patterns and philosophy of Jesus Christ. They uphold the Jesus Way of Life as the ideal and desire that Christ-like justice and attitudes shall characterize every act of the Association and the personal lives of all members. They believe that all young men who are willing, freely and wholeheartedly, to subscribe to these central purposes and objectives and agree to govern their lives accordingly, shall be enrolled as active members regardless of race, creed or nationality.

While Y's Men place due emphasis upon the term "Christian" in the Young Men's Christian Association, subscribe fully to the central purposes of the Y.M.C.A., and seek to give emphasis to those movement aspects such as they believe existed among the purposes of the founders, yet they are not antagonistic to the good features of the other great religions. These purposes and values must be interpreted to have their correct influence upon present day life and the conditions under which we live."

(Excerpt from discussion on Religious Attitudes at Cleveland Convention.)

RICHARD H. McCLEERY ELECTED INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT OF Y'S MEN'S CLUBS

While the Tenth Annual Convention of the International Y's Men's Clubs may have been slightly eclipsed by the other two Association events at Cleveland, it was probably the most significant, and, in many respects, the best convention in the decade of that Movement's life.

Following two years of the most successful leadership of President Newt. Thompson, of Belleville, Ontario, the Convention elected as President for 1931-32 a young manufacturer, Richard H. McCleery, of Washington, Iowa. Dick is a one hundred per cent Association man, with an unusually clear and high conception of the Young Men's Christian Association's purposes and objectives. We wish him a term of office in which the Y's Men's Clubs will continue to expand in membership and clubs as well as intensify its programmes.

The convention unanimously adopted a resolution which expresses the Movement's attitude towards its parent body:

"Whereas: The various Young Men's Christian Associations, their secretaries and officers, have given increasing attention, interest and co-operation in the Y's Men's Movement and expansion during the past year.

"Therefore be it resolved: That this convention go on record by a vote of thanks in expression of our appreciation for such participation, and in requesting their further co-operation, we do hereby pledge our continued assistance and devotion to our foster parent, the Young Men's Christian Association."

TRANSFER OF FOREIGN WORK FROM NATIONAL COUNCILS OF CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

In 1925 the International Committee which had developed the supervision of both Home and Foreign work in North America, formally transferred its control to the two National Councils. Since that date the Foreign Work has been directed by a Joint Foreign Work Committee appointed by the two National Councils and considerable progress has been made in widening the basis of support and of interest in this work of international good-will and co-operation. In fact the giving by local Associations has increased

steadily until the economic crisis of 1930. Owing to a variety of conditions however, it has been impossible to maintain the Foreign Work at the levels to which it was extended by the International Committee and serious recurring deficits have made it necessary to withdraw a considerable number of men from the field. This has been a tremendous source of disappointment to all concerned and at a meeting of the United States National Council held in Cleveland on August 10th the National Council requested the International Committee to again resume responsibility for the administration of the Foreign Work. They pledged themselves to give continued suport and to maintain their loyalty and whole-hearted interest and to carry the work until administrative changes could be arranged.

A meeting of the International Committee was held in New York on August 19th when this proposal was formally accepted, to take effect on the 1st of January, 1932. A Committee of Seven was appointed to give effect to this transfer. Mr. James M. Speers, Chairman of the International Committee ex officio, together with Messrs. Francis S. Harmon, Chairman; Wilfred W. Fry, Cleveland E. Dodge, Roger H. Williams, Dr. John R. Mott, and E. G. Baker of Toronto.

This action was prompted solely by deep solicitude of all concerned for the stabilization of the Foreign Service. It is hoped that under this new plan further losses of this service may be avoided and that the great missionary cause of the North American Movement may go on from strength to strength.

The Executive Committee of the National Council of Canada as the authorized agent of the Council considered this proposal and ratified the transfer in the following resolution:

"Moved by Mr. Bauckham, seconded by Mr. Grabill that the Executive Committee on behalf of the National Council of Canada consents to the transfer of the Foreign Service from the joint committee of the Foreign Divisions and the National Councils of Canada and the United States in accordance with the resolutions adopted by the United States National Council at Cleveland, August 10th and 11th, 1931, and by the International Committee at New York, on August 19th, 1931.

Inasmuch however, as the reasons for this transfer are almost wholly concerns of the International Committee and the United States National Council, we respectfully request that the present satisfactory arrangement by which the Joint Committee of Foreign Divisions works through the National Council of Canada in promoting world friendship and in collecting funds for the support of the Foreign Service should be continued."

This resolution accepts the principle of the transfer which leaves International Committee with full responsibility in regard to policy and administration but provides that, in carrying these out in Canada, they should continue to clear through the National Council of Canada. We believe that the new arrangement will release new and important personalities for the support of the work and hope that each local Association will continue its loyal and devoted service to this cause. The Foreign Work has been endorsed to a remarkable degree by the International Survey Staff and is only at the beginning of a greater service of international friendship and co-operation.

A National Emergency Committee for the Conservation of Character Values and Christian Fellowship during the Present Social-Economic Crisis.

INTRODUCTION

Notwithstanding the pressure of attendance at the World's Conference and International Convention and their numerous committees, three meetings of all Canadian delegates to Cleveland were held. The chief item considered was the problem arising out of unemployment. Reports of excellent Association efforts to meet the situation were presented by delegates from Vancouver, Toronto, Halifax and other centres. At the last meeting a Continuation Committee was appointed to meet at Couchiching on August 23 and 24, to draft a national policy and program, to present to the National Council Executive.

This committee convened at Couchiching with the following present: McKellar, Schell, Dewar, Wellband, Elliott, Beaton, with the members of the National staff. A number of other secretaries and laymen shared in the discussions.

PREAMBLE

We believe that the present unemployment situation constitutes a national crisis, comparable to the first years of the war, and that there is no indication that it is to be of short duration. We believe that it is producing a vast amount of physical suffering and misery and that it is having a most demoralizing effect on the health and character of the nation.

We appreciate the efforts of our governmental agencies to meet the necessities for employment and relief and the increased energy with which welfare agencies, churches and individuals are making to alleviate physical distress. We respectfully submit, however, that no adequate plans have been made to mobilize the moral and spiritual resources of the country to meet this crisis in the spirit of mutual aid, courage and fortitude, which were characteristic of our national attitude during the war, we, therefore recommend that the National Council should take the initiative in organizing a local, provincial and national program to meet this situation.

TITLE

We do not wish this program to suggest material relief of any kind and we deprecate the use of "unemployment" as a descriptive title. We invite cooperation from all interested in the discovery of a suitable name. The following have already been proposed: "National Unity and Character Conservation," "Personality Conservation" "The Friendship Club," and "The Conservation of Character Values and Christian Fellowship."

ORGANIZATION

We recommend the development of a special national emergency committee similar to the Military Committee which took charge of our war work, through a series of interlocking committees, local, provincial and national.

PROGRAMME

1. **Local.** Through the established local Y.M.C.A.'s in the development of a special program for unemployed young men and boys actually listed as unemployed, and also for the even larger number living at home who find themselves on short time, or wholly unemployed. Neither of these groups are in a position to pay much, if anything, for such a program, but they are in urgent need of help at this time. The disintegration of character which is taking place among these younger men is very serious. We have an important responsibility for giving personal counsel on all of the problems of these men, including their moral and religious difficulties.

We advise that the Association avoid entirely any responsibility for physical relief which is the field of other well-established agencies. On the other hand, we should seek in every way possible to strengthen their hands and enable them to care adequately for young men and boys who come to us for assistance. Our local committees should keep in the closest kind of contact with the other social agencies, and draw on all the resources of the community in trying to help the young men who come to them for counsel.

2. **Provincial.** We are receiving requests from some of the provinces inquiring what we propose to do about serving the young men who are being mobilized in labor camps. It has been suggested that we should attempt to provide a program of recreation, popular education, moral and religious inspiration along lines similar to our war work, but keeping clear of any responsibility for canteen service or other phases of physical relief. Our local Associations are working under very great pressure with reduced staffs, and if we did undertake any work of this kind it would have to be largely dependent on part-time services of our secretaries, plus the enlistment of a large number of volunteer lay helpers. We are not sure at present how far this need for social, moral, and spiritual activities in these camps has been anticipated, or whether the Provincial Governments would welcome such assistance. We do feel that there is an urgent need for work of this kind and we would be glad to bring our experience and resources into this work if we are invited to do so by responsible authorities and can secure the cooperation of churches and other interested organizations. This will be a very difficult task, under present conditions but we must not shirk a duty which our past experience and interdenominational basis enables us to fulfil better than any other agency.

If such a task is placed upon our shoulders, it would be wise to have it begin modestly by exploring the possibilites of part time secretarial service from local Associations and by making large demands for voluntary lay-service from committeemen and also from the unemployed men themselves. We believe the same policy should be followed in the building up of the necessary equipment such as athletic supplies, gramophones and similar articles for use in programmes. If other agencies decide to undertake this work on their own account, we advise that the Y.M.C.A. should avoid any competition with them and should concentrate its work entirely in local Associations. On the other hand, if we are asked to conduct this work on behalf of Churches and other agencies, we should be careful to see that they are all given representation on our committees and full recognition for their part in the enterprise. We must have effective administrative unity. At the same time, we must be careful to see that we should give as well as receive co-operation.

3. **National.** In order to carry out such a provincial programme effectively and to act as a clearing house, and to maintain unity of policy and of administration, it will be necessary for us to have a national committee. We believe that such a committee should also take the initiative in promoting a programme of social education in co-operation with other national organizations. We believe that we are facing a psychological crisis as acute as any that we had during the war and up to the present we do not believe that any adequate steps have been taken to mobilize the moral and spiritual resources of the country to meet this crisis in the spirit of mutual aid, courage and fortitude which characterized our national attitude during the war. We do not believe that the changes that are taking place in our social and economic conditions are merely temporary, and we think that it is of the utmost importance for the public mind to be prepared to understand and accept these changed conditions, without resorting to untruthful propaganda. We think that there is a need for the presentation of the most constructive aspects of the situation and thus remove a serious supplementary cause of our present difficulties. Of course, any such step would have to leave entire freedom to each Organization to follow its own constituency and use its own methods, but we do believe that such a programme should be undertaken. In this field we would draw attention to the resolutions passed at Cleveland by the International Convention in regard to social and economic changes and the request for us to undertake a programme of popular education through the use of public forums as well as through literature and other more informal steps.

4. **Finance.** We believe that the local Associations should finance their programme in this area as a special section in their general appeal. We believe that an active programme in this field will have important financial results instead of being a possible liability. If work is undertaken in provincial camps, we should ask the fullest co-operation from the Governments concerned in regard to maintenance of workers, transportation, labour and freedom to draw on suitable unemployed men for helping in this kind of work. For the present, the Association should cover the salaries of the secretaries they loan for this work. We feel that the whole enterprise should be undertaken courageously and at the same time on an experimental basis, which would enable us to go forward without making serious mistakes.

NEXT STEPS

This report has been approved in principle by the National Council and the nucleus of the National Emergency Committee appointed: Mr. Thos. Bradshaw, Chairman, Mr. H. M. Peacock and Mr. J. W. Hopkins. We advise local Associations to consider these proposals and if favourable to proceed at once to the organization of strong local committees. Further information will be sent out from the National Committee as rapidly as decisions can be secured, together with suggested programs for local Associations. Local Committees are urged to report progress and to clear with the National Committee by writing to Dr. E. M. Best, General Secretary.

This issue of the Bulletin offers excellent material for programme setting-up conferences, meetings of boards of directors and other committees and clubs. Also it should be placed in the hands of leading laymen. Extra copies may be had at the National Council office, at the rate of 10 copies for $1.00; orders should be placed at once as the supply is limited.